(c) Rural Electrification Corporation has been assisting the concerned State Governments to promote viable Rural Electric Cooperatives in their States. Rural Electrification Corporation has been extending concessional finance for Rural Electric Cooperatives. No new assistance could be organised during the last 2 years.

Drinking Water Facilities under AUWSP and Gujarat

755. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the names of cities and towns which have so far been provided with drinking water facilities in Gujarat under the Accelerated Urban Supply Programme;

(b) how many additional cities and towns are likely to be covered under the programme during the current financial year and by the end of the century; and

(c) what other measures are being taken by Government to augment the drinking water supply in urban areas of Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU): (a) Under the Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme (AUWSP) applicable to towns having population less than 20,000 as per 1991 Census, schemes have been sanctioned for providing safe drinking water facilities to Dharampur, Bantva, Dhrol, Okha Port, Jodia, Mendarda, Barwala and Surajkaradi towns in Gujarat.

(b) Out of a total of 84 towns eligible for assistance under the Accelerated Urban Water Supply Programme (AUWSP), the numbers of additional towns likely to be covered under the programme during the current financial year and by the end of the century, would depend on generation of schemes and their priority as decided by the State Government, the fund requirment and the allocation of resources by the Planning Commission.

(c) Water Supply is a State subject but the Central Government endeavours to provide financial assistance to the States within the limits of available resources to tackle this problem. Apart from the Centrally sponsored AUWS Programme, allocations are made by the Planning Commission in the State Plan under the Urban Water Supply and Sanitation Sector. The total allocations made so far during the Eighth Plan period upto March, 1996 to Gujarat are Rs. 77.89 crores.

Review of Housing Policy

756. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have of late reviewed the housing policy and adopted it with or without modifications;

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) what steps have been taken to ensure optimum use of houses and residential units available in metropolises and other cities and towns by enactment of rent laws, on the pattern of the model-law framed by Government over two years ago?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU): (a) The task of formulation of National Housing Policy was initiated in the mid-eightees. After indepth consultations, the final version of the policy was tabled in Parliament in July, 1992. The National Housing Policy was approved by Parliament in August, 1994.

(b) The policy is based on the principle of "Enabling Approach of the State". State/public agencies will act mainly as 'facilitators' rather than 'builders' or 'providers' of housing. The "enabling role" of